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Alexander, Ill.

Though two months have passed the REGISTER has failed to reach me at my new address and I do not know whether my last letter for its columns was printed or not; but I will give to my old friend what may be of interest to its reader from this locality, at least once more.

The late cold, disappointing early spring suddenly changed to warm dry weather and farm work was so rushed that much of the corn crop has been planted, and a good deal of it is up, offering a shining mark to the late frosts the weather men have promised us.

Farm work is pushed here at a great rate when the weather permits. It is rather rare to see a two horse plow running here. Nearly all use four-horse gang plows, or large three-horse riding plows and a few three-horse walking plows. The gang has two plows cutting 12 inches each, or four feet to the round. The three-horse riding plow cut from 14 to 18, generally 16 inches, three feet or a little less each round. Listing plows that plow and drill the corn in at one operation are also being more used. In fact anything that will displace men on the land is adopted from necessity in order to make farming immediately profitable, or to enable the tenants to pay their rents.

Your scribe is the county surveyor and has, for the last two weeks been working with compass and chain over the south part of Morgan county from the Sangamon line on the east, to Nortonville on the west. This has been one of the best wheat sections in the county, yet this year, during this time, I have passed over but one wheat field. During the coming week my work will be in the northeast part and southwestern parts of the county, both until recent years excellent wheat sections, yet if I find three fields it will be more than I expect. Chinch, but more especially Hessian fly, are the great drawbacks. We have driven away nearly all our birds and this is our penalty.

Passing about the country one cannot help noticing the great improvement in stock of all kinds even if one gets back into the rougher lands so far that the old fashioned sweep is still used in the wells instead of a pump.

I have surveyed in the Ozarks and other rough places but think there are quite as uncanny places for a surveyor to scramble through here as anywhere on land worth laying off.

Judge Owen P. Thompson whom the Commoner and other papers, are lauding so much for granting the mandamus requiring the state board of equalization to assess the property and franchises of corporations, is a friend of your scribe's and I know him to lean in the right direction on the question of taxation. He is a resident of Jacksonville, and served one term as county judge. The pity is that it should require a man of courage to reach such a decision, and to issue such a writ. Such a need speaks badly against our boasted self government; nor can the courts permanently mend matters till we have some very great changes in our statutes. It does seem as though the members of the State Board of Equalization (Inequalization?) should be prosecuted for perjury and malfeasance.

May 14, 1901. WM. CAMM.

Shudders at His Past.

"I recall now with horror," says Mail Carrier Burnett Mann, of Levan, O., "my three years of suffering from Kidney trouble. I was hardly ever free from dull aches or acute pains in my back. To stoop or lift mail sacks made me groan. I felt tired, worn out, about ready to give up, when I began to use Electric Bitters, but six bottles completely cured me and made me feel like a new man." They're unrivaled to regulate Stomach, Liver, Kidneys and Bowels. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed by all druggists. Only 50 cents.

Another Pertle Springs Convention.

We infer from the Piedmont Banner's article on "Another Pertle Springs Convention," that its editor is opposed to the Democratic party's adhering to any issue that does not bring immediate success to its candidates. He claims that we have fought two battles upon the money question and been defeated. He says, "Why not see the inevitable and let the matter rest?" We admit that at present there is no immediate need of another Pertle Springs convention. The Democrats of this State are willing to let the Well's incident rest. They have made it plain that they do not approve of the men or methods that made Mr. Wells mayor of St. Louis. They do not care particularly about St. Louis; they believe that the election of Mr. Wells was secured by the connivance of certain powerful Republican influ-

ences, and are content to let St. Louis wallow in the mire of her own politics. But if one single move more is made toward turning the party over to the men who betrayed it in 1896 and again in 1900, there will be another Pertle Springs cyclone. At present the money question is in abeyance. The quantitative theory of money, for which the Democracy contended has prevailed, and all our financiers appear to have adopted it. The production of gold has been stimulated to such an extent that conditions which Democrats wished to produce by free coinage, have been approximately realized. Should the production of gold not prove so large as it is now believed to be, or should there be any falling off, silver would at once be forced to the front. Should gold production be expanded, great watchfulness would have to be exercised to prevent legislation to restrict its coinage. It will take a year or two for the situation to become clear. So far, the advocates of silver have been victorious in compelling our financiers to recognize the correctness of their contention that it is the quantity of money in circulation that controls prices, and not its quality. The Independent believes that there has been a forced accumulation of gold in this country with a view to diverting the attention of the American people from the money question and that other parts of the country are sufferers on account of this policy. The events of the next few years will prove whether we are correct. The land question and the money question are the two wings of the line of battle for personal and economic liberty. A monopoly of land interferes with the liberty of the individual; a monopoly of money indirectly does the same thing. The Democratic party is an anti-monopoly party. It was brought into existence to fight monopolies; when it ceases to do this, it will cease to exist and another organization will take the standard from its dead hand. Many men like the editor of the Banner, seem to think that the party was only organized to give certain people office; that any principle must be accepted or abandoned if it tends to secure that end. If, as Bro. Holmes seems to intimate, immediate success in obtaining or holding office is all there is in politics, the Republican party would never have been formed before the war, and the Democratic party would never have been reorganized after it. The North would have submitted to the fugitive law and the South would have submitted to reconstruction. If men should quit fighting for the right, after a defeat or two, Washington would have quit after Brandywine; the Federals would have abandoned the war for the Union after the seven days battle; the Stuarts would still be on the throne of England and all liberty would long ago have disappeared from the earth. The editor of the Banner will find that all men are not "time servers"; that the rank and file of the Democracy of this State don't care a penny who holds the offices of this State, if Democratic principles are not to be pushed to the front. There are a great many politicians who cannot rid themselves of the idea that the machine is everything and principle nothing in politics. These men will know more after 1902 than they do in 1901. The rank and file of the party in this State are not going to permit it to be turned over to a gang of plutocratic monopolists to lead them in a fight against monopoly, even if they are compelled to resort to another Pertle Springs convention. If they are forced to such a measure, the editor of the Banner will be on hand with a brass band.—Potosi Independent.

Black Spot in History.

Auburn Herbert, an Englishman of such standing as to command three columns in the London Times for his communication, reviews the conduct of the allied powers in China. His information is obtained at first hand, of his own knowledge and from letters in both the American and British press from correspondents who were eye witnesses of what they relate and whose standing and reliability are far above that of the ordinary newsmongers who anonymously fill the columns of papers with sensations. In each case the authority is named and contradiction is challenged. Much of the information is official or semi-official. The whole review is the most fearful arraignment of the brutality of the forces of civilization that has yet appeared, and fully justifies the melancholy sentence with which Mr. Herbert concludes: "Never before, I think, in our generation, has Europe had occasion to be so utterly ashamed of itself."

He begins by sketching in outline the story as it appears to him to have taken place, and follows with the all-

too abundant proofs and shocking details. The wholesale delivery was in full flower during the march to Peking. For no useful purpose villages and towns were reduced to heaps of smoking ashes. The country was turned into a wilderness. Unoffending men, women, children and babies were killed in hundreds. Killing was carried on for killing's sake and property destroyed for the love of destruction.

After the relief of Peking we enter on another phase. Loot possessed all hearts and fired all imaginations. It ruled out all other topics of conversation. It entered like a fiend into almost everybody without distinction. Not soldiers only, but foreign residents and women were seized with the universal madness. Everybody looted; picnics were organized to go into the country for looting purposes. Then came another phase. The pagan Japanese were the first to protest against the general practice of robbery. The authorities issued orders against private looting. The required that all loot should be collected and sold by auction under their direction. Then the soldiers had a new incentive for robbery, for they were supplied with an official market in which they could turn their spoils into cash, and every day the best people of the legations and others assembled to purchase, with laughter and excitement. The European society of the city talked of nothing else and parties were organized with authority to loot. An officer looking on at the auctions under the colonnade of the British legation remarked: "This affair is the biggest case of loot since the days of Pizarro."

Then came orders that no more looting was to be done; that property was to be paid for in all cases. This order, when it was obeyed at all, was obeyed in the following fashion. The European took what he wanted anywhere he found it, and offered the owner, if he was present, a few cents in payment. The owner rarely refused the price, and if he did he got a kick or a blow of a stick instead; sometimes he was stabbed or shot, many times fatally. The victims of the delirium, it must be remembered, were, in most cases, innocent Chinese who had no part in the Boxer outrages, for all the guilty had fled.

Not content with robbing the people of their miserable property in this savage fashion, the invaders and the resident foreigners held absolute sway over the persons and lives of all natives. Any foreigner had but to go into the streets and say to any Chinaman he met, "Come," or merely to beckon him, and he came. If he lagged, he could be beaten and wounded; if he refused, he could be shot and killed. Often they were wounded or killed when they could not understand what was wanted of them. The enforced labor of coolies under the direction of soldiers was the occasion of unnumbered and savage brutalities. They were beaten, stabbed, killed by the score, for blunders or disobedience which was in most cases the result of mere misunderstanding. There appears to have been a complete moral breakdown, not only among the soldiers, but among all classes of foreigners, men and women, and even mis-

sionaries, one of the latter confessing in a letter that, of course, under the circumstances the moral standard of times of peace could not be expected to govern.

These were the acts of soldiers and civilians not engaged in actual war. The crimes described above, multiplied in respect to number and atrocity by thousands, will represent the acts of the troops in actual operation in the field. There was no such thing as armed resistance in any part of the country at any time during the occupation. Yet the course of the troops was marked by universal, indiscriminate slaughter, burning, rape and murder, men, women and children being indifferently the victims. The country was covered with the corpses of unresisting peasants and villagers. Towns and villages were wiped off the earth; the Peiho river floated the bodies of slaughtered peasants down to the sea in such numbers as to threaten pestilence; corpses were piled up in heaps; if there was a house left standing in the path of the armies its only tenants were dead bodies. The country was reduced to a wilderness and the remnant of humanity sneaking about in the empty spaces were starved or compelled to brigandage.

It might be imagined that this sort of thing had gone far enough; but the German troops are still ravaging from pure lust of slaughter, for there isn't a trace of opposition left among the people, and the only Chinese left with arms in their hands in all the occupied region are wandering banditti, who have no other means than robbery to gain bread.

It is altogether a chapter in the history of Christian civilization which can find no parallel since the middle ages, and even in those ages in only a few instances. It is a melancholy illustration of what men, presumably civilized and Christian, can descend to when all restraint is gone, and a proof of the old saying that civilization is only a thin veneering over the innate savagery in most men's hearts.—Detroit Tribune.

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Chas. H. Fletcher

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Pills will not only cure, but if
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Sick Headache,
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ABSOLUTELY CURE.

WAYS OF THE OLDEN TIME.

Regulations That Were Once in Vogue at Funerals and Churches.

Diving into the old records of one of the most charming cities of our commonwealth, Northampton, we find much of deep interest as revealing customs and habits of olden times, says the Springfield (Mass.) Republican. No fire was found in "the meeting-house" in olden time and comparatively recently foot stoves were carried to church, as were tall candles to the evening meetings. In 1787 the important vital question at a legal town meeting was: "Shall men and their wives be seated together in pews?" and the vote was an emphatic "No!"

In 1744, about the beginning of Jonathan Edwards' trouble in the parish, it was voted not "to pay the charge of bringing his daughter from Brookfield." In 1738 this appears on the town records: "Taking into consideration the difficulty Mr. Edwards hath labored under this year and some time past with respect to his firewood the town voted that those persons who have not this year brought him a load of wood might have liberty between this time and next Tuesday night to bring each one his load of wood." If there was not a sufficiency of wood by that time, the town then voted, the selectmen shall see that the deficiency should be met at the cost of the town.

Later, in 1738, we find in the warrant for town meeting this entry: "To procure firewood for Rev. Mr. Williams, to choose a committee to seat the meeting-house." A most serious business to decide, who should take preference in the broad aisles: The "nigger pew," well remembered by the writer, caused no trouble to said officer, as that was readily accepted by the "colored brethren," like cows in the stable, who went dutifully to their separate stalls.

Not only the living had special rules governing their conduct, but the rules about the dead were very quaint, as by this report of a committee, May 11, 1780, to whom had been referred the conduct of funerals, as follows:

"Whereas, It is the opinion of this town that funerals ought to be conducted with great decency and decorum in order to impress on rising and rising generation the importance of the awful solemnity, and to render the house of mourning better than the house of feasting. Be it therefore recommended to all the inhabitants of this town to observe the following regulations at funerals:

"1. That the relatives of the deceased follow next the corpse, two and two. "2. If the deceased was a male person the males are to follow next the mourners, two and two, and the women after them, two and two; but if the deceased was a woman, then the women are to follow next the mourners and the men after them.

"3. Those on horseback are to follow in after the foot folks, horses two and two, and the carriages are to follow in the rear of the procession. And it is requested that no person walk or ride on either side the procession that nature would do it without expense. Not till 1749 were the forts and fortifications of the town demolished and the timber and boards sold for the benefit of the town.

Laws were passed relative to the schooling of boys and the amount of wood they should bring to the school-house; girls were of no account in those days.

MUSK OX RAISING IN SWEDEN.

An Industry That Is About to Be Prosecuted Upon an Extensive Scale.

In Sweden the industry of raising the musk ox for its fleece has been started on a large scale, says the New York Journal.

After making many unsuccessful attempts the folkhott arctic expedition, which several seasons ago returned to Sweden from Greenland, succeeded in there capturing alive two calves of the musk ox, a male and a female, and bringing them to Sweden in good condition. In this way the musk ox industry started.

At present there is a large herd of these animals, which are being cared for on a farm in northern Sweden, where all conditions are apparently suitable for their development.

The musk ox (ovibos moschatus) is a singular animal, in appearance resembling both an ox and a sheep, as the scientific name "ovibos" implies. Its introduction into Sweden will be of great benefit to that country, in the opinion of Kolkhoff, who, in flat contradiction to the statements of the older zoologists, says that the flesh of the animal is not merely edible, but of very agreeable flavor. As a fully developed musk ox weighs about 1,500 pounds, this is an important consideration.

But the principal value of the animal lies in its heavy fleece of dark brown wool of extraordinarily fine fiber. The fleece of a single musk ox outweighs those of 20 sheep.

Keeping the Subject Uppermost.
"My daughter's young man went home on time last night."
"Did you go in and remind him?"
"No," but I had our parlor clock fixed so it cuckooed every ten minutes."—Detroit Free Press.